

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:JPLEONARD:BDS

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USOAS - MR. TAYLOR

EA/PRCM - MR. BROOKS

USOAS - AMB. MAILLARD

EA/ROC - MR. SULLIVAN

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R 202300Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056170

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, OAS

SUBJ: ROC INTEREST IN OAS OBSERVER STATUS

1. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM TAIPEI, COUNSELOR CHOU  
HUNG-FAN OF ROC EMBASSY CALLED AT US MISSION TO THE OAS  
(USOAS) IN THE DEPARTMENT MARCH 19 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY  
OF ROC APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT OAS.

2. AT CHOU'S REQUEST, WE OUTLINED OAS REGULATIONS ON  
OBSERVER STATUS, OF WHICH THERE ARE TWO KINDS. TO QUALI-  
FY FOR SIMPLE OBSERVER STATUS (WHICH IS GOOD ONLY FOR  
ONE SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY) NON-AMERICAN STATE MUST  
BE MEMBER OF UN OR ONE OF ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. CHOU  
NOTED ROC PROBLEM IN MEETING THIS QUALIFICATION, DOUBTED  
ROC WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS. TO QUALIFY FOR PERMA-  
NENT OBSERVER STATUS, NON-AMERICAN STATE MUST PARTICI-  
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PATE IN ONE OF THE OAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. CHOU SAID

THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE ROC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA ARE ALL BILATERAL.

3. TURNING TO MECHANICS OF APPLICATION, WE INFORMED CHOU THAT ROC WOULD LIKELY FACE OPPOSITION FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS PERU AND MEXICO, WHICH HAVE RELATIONS WITH PRC. THE MOST LIKELY TACTIC WOULD BE TO BOTTLE UP ROC APPLICATION IN OAS POLITICAL/JURIDICAL COMMITTEE, A TACTIC HAS BEEN

USED SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST PORTUGAL.

4. CHOU'S QUESTIONS WERE ENTIRELY OF A TECHNICAL NATURE. HE DID NOT ASK FOR US REACTION OR OFFER ANY EXPLANATION FOR ROC INTEREST IN OAS. HE DID MENTION HAVING DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SEVERAL LATIN EMBASSIES HERE. WE ASSUME ROC INTEREST STEMS FROM DESIRE TO SOLIDIFY ITS POSITION WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND TO IMPROVE ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION GENERALLY.

5. FYI, DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT WELCOME AN ROC APPLICATION TO OAS, SINCE THIS WOULD INJECT A DIVISIVE, CONTENTIOUS AND BASICALLY IRRELEVANT (I.E. NON-HEMISPHERIC) ISSUE INTO THAT ORGANIZATION. TO JUDGE FROM CHOU'S APPROACH, ROC MAY STILL BE IN INFORMATION-GATHERING STAGE, IN WHICH CASE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS TO HIM MAY DISCOURAGE SERIOUS PURSUIT OF THIS MATTER. WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THIS OUTCOME, HOWEVER, AND ANTICIPATE WE MAY HEAR FURTHER FROM THE ROC ABOUT IT. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

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